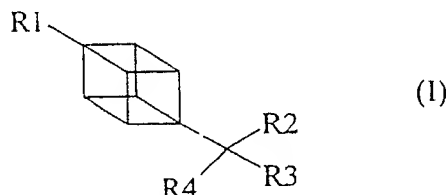


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We claim:

1. A compound of the formula:



wherein:

R1 can be an acidic group selected from the group consisting of carboxyl, phosphono, phosphino, sulfono, sulfinio, borono, tetrazol, isoxazol, -CH₂-carboxyl, -CH₂-phosphono, -CH₂-phosphino, -CH₂-sulfono, -CH₂-sulfinio, -CH₂-borono, -CH₂-tetrazol, and -CH₂-isoxazol;

R2 can be a basic group selected from the group consisting of 1° amino, 2° amino, 3° amino, quaternary ammonium salts, aliphatic 1° amino, aliphatic 2° amino, aliphatic 3° amino, aliphatic quaternary ammonium salts, aromatic 1° amino, aromatic 2° amino, aromatic 3° amino, aromatic quaternary ammonium salts, imidazol, guanidino, boronoamino, allyl, urea, thiourea,

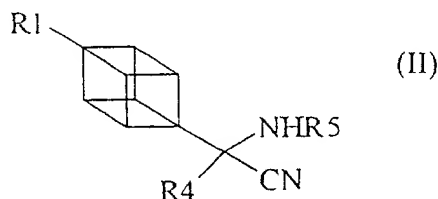
R3 can be H, aliphatic, aromatic or heterocyclic;

R4 can be an acidic group selected from the group consisting of carboxyl, phosphono, phosphino, sulfono, sulfinio, borono, tetrazol, isoxazol; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein **R1** is COOH

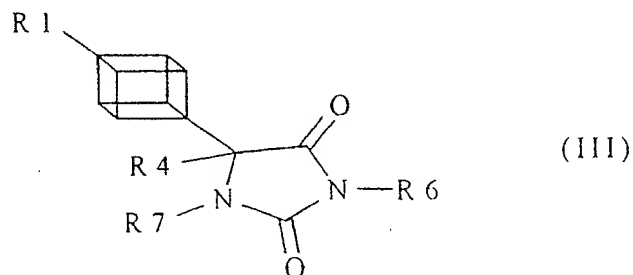
3. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein **R2** is COOH
4. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein **R3** can be -H, or -Me; or xanthyl or thioxanthyl and **R4** is NH₂
5. A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable metabolically-labile ester or amide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises:

(a) hydrolyzing a compound of formula:



in which **R1** is defined as above, **R5** represents a hydrogen atom or an acyl group and **R4** has the meaning defined above. Preferred values for **R5** are hydrogen and (2-6C) alkanoyl groups, such as acetyl;

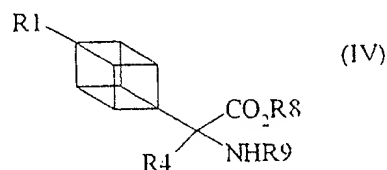
(b) hydrolyzing a compound of formula:



wherein **R6** and **R7** each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a (2-6C) alkanoyl

group, a (1-4C) alkyl group, a (3-4C) alkenyl group or a phenyl (1-4C) alkyl group in which the phenyl is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, (1-4C) alkyl or (1-4C) alkoxy, or a salt thereof, or

(c) deprotecting a compound of formula:

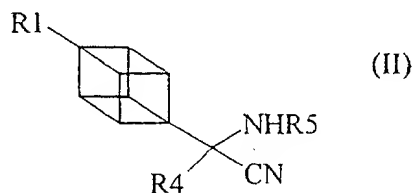


in which **R8** represents a hydrogen atom or a carboxyl protecting group, or a salt thereof, and **R9** represents a hydrogen atom or a nitrogen protecting group;

whereafter, if necessary and/or desired:

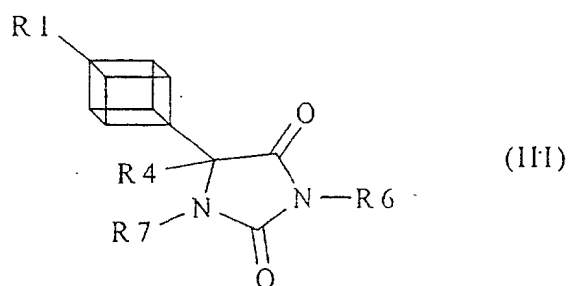
- (i) resolving the compound of Formula I;
 - (ii) converting the compound of Formula I into a non-toxic metabolically-labile ester or amide thereof; and/or;
 - (iii) converting the compound of Formula I or a non-toxic metabolically-labile ester or amide thereof into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
6. A pharmaceutical formulation, which comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.
 7. A method of modulating one or more metabotropic glutamate receptor functions in a warm blooded mammal requiring such treatment, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

8. A compound of formula:



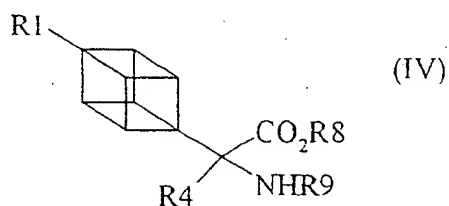
in which **R1**, **R4** and **R5** have the meanings as defined above. *in claim 1*

9. A compound of formula:



wherein **R6** and **R7** have meanings as defined above.

10. A compound of formula:



in which **R8** and **R9** have meanings as defined above.